2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

491 others following the old, but all opening up the country and making possible better security and greater trade.

794 At Yeshbum I stayed the night with a family of influential
184 Saiyids. They were very pleasant people indeed on the surface,
[178] though the opening up of the country must have been disagreeable to all but the broad-minded among them, and Saiyids like other religious leaders, are not renowned for their broadness of mind. Inviolate as Saiyids, descendants of the Prophet Muhammed, shrewd business men who lend money against property mortgages, educated among an ignorant people, and by tradition the mediators in family and tribal disputes, they were powerful people whose influence was bound to be affected adversely as contact with the outer world increased and education became effective. My host of the evening was Sheikh Ali Jifri, a charming elderly gentleman much afflicted with rheumatism, who was far-sighted enough to recognise the inevitable and to accept a change which he knew to be in the interests of the Aulaki people. Unfortunately, he died not long after my visit and his kindly influence was removed from his brother and his sons and nephews. They have always been difficult and resentful and have never really co-operated in the setting up of the Aulaki administration and have not used their influence in the right direction in the Council Chamber.
[185] Political interests in the neighbourhood of Aden and in the Colony itself and the acquisition of agricultural land in the rich cotton areas, have been their pursuits. Nasser of Egypt is their idol and independence is their goal. What a pity learned students of religion cannot be content with the greatest of all occupations, the bringing of the word of God to the people of this tortured earth. The truth is that the false gods of wealth and power attract descendants of the Prophet in the same way as other people, for after all, they are but human.

184 The following day we drove up the Wadi Yeshbum to Said, the capital of the State beneath whose ancient towers I was to
[541] be greeted by the Amir, his brothers and the tribal leaders. They were all ready for us where the Wadi broadens just below the town and they formed a procession, firing their rifles in the traditional manner, while their poets composed

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden mm1

THE COLONY

PART I

Review of 1949 and 1950

THE progress of the Colony has been uninterrupted by any serious political or industrial disputes, or by epidemic disease, and both in numbers of residents and material prosperity it has grown far beyond any previous records. The number of ships calling at Aden for fuel make it one of the busiest ports of the world, handling a tonnage comparable with Liverpool, while the air services radiating from Aden to the Middle East, India and the East African Territories have increased in number and frequency. The new civil airport is nearing completion. A new radio-telephone link has been established with East Africa and London.

Steady progress has been made with the Education Five-Year Plan, and with other development works, described in more detail below, and the revenue has remained adequate for recurrent expenditure and for substantial expenditure upon new works without raising additional taxation.

The increase in the population has been caused mainly by the immigration of Arabs from the interior (Aden Protectorate and Yemen) and of Indians and Pakistanis, in most cases single men only. In order to prevent the influx into Aden of people for whom there cannot be found employment or housing, new Immigration Rules were introduced in May, 1950, under which an intending immigrant must satisfy the Government that he is coming to an approved occupation for which no suitable local candidate (of any race) is available. This control has been so far effected mainly on persons arriving by sea. The protection of local employees is being accompanied by a vigorous programme of school building, including a technical college, to raise the educational standard of local candidates.

The late Mr. A. Antonin Besse, K.B.E., made a generous gift of £50,000 to the Colony; £29,000 is to be spent on buildings at the new Technical College and it is proposed to use the balance for the education of women in Aden.

A population movement of great significance was completed during the period under review by the migration of nearly 42,000 Jews of Yemen origin to Israel. Arrangements for their air lift from Aden were made by the Israeli Authorities in close co-operation with the Aden Government, and the operation was completed without accident or any outbreak of disease, and without molestation by the Arab communities through whom they passed.

The Yemeni Jews have thus ceased to be an important element of the population of Southern Arabia, and in Aden Colony they have

mosques and to storage tanks from which the commercial carriers draw water for sale to the inhabitants. Most well supplies are unprotected and exposed to subsoil and surface contamination. The ablution pools in the mosques are often heavily polluted and serve as vehicles for the transmission of intestinal infections. They also provide conditions favorable for the breeding of anopheline and other mosquitoes; also of Planorbis and Bulinus snails.

There are numerous small irrigation projects in the agricultural districts, especially in Western Aden Protectorate and the Hadhramaut, many of which have been in use for decades. They depend upon water from streams or wells and, in some parts of the highlands, from spring-fed cisterns. Pumps have been introduced in the modern developments, but in most instances water is drawn from streams and wells in the traditional manner, namely, in leather buckets by means of ropes pulled over wooden pulleys by men or animals.

Waste Disposal

The methods of sewage disposal are primitive. Septic tanks, which discharge into the main drainage system, are connected with some of the newer houses in Aden Colony, but pail privies provide the usual means of sewage disposal in both Aden and Sheikh Othman townships. In old buildings with several stories, soil pipes which may be 40 feet in length lead from the privies on the upper floors to containers below. The night soil is collected regularly from private and public latrines by the town authorities and conveyed to incineration plants. Pit latrines are employed in some quarters, but they are being abolished wherever possible. In the congested districts, the latrines are located along concrete passages between the rears of the houses and are drained to storm sewers or to soakpits. The construction of a modern sewerage system for the Colony is under consideration.

The "[illegible]" method, in which [illegible]